

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-7 are amended, and new claims 9-15 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Poon at the personal interview held on July 6 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Funada (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,408); rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada; rejects claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada in view of Heckman (U.S. Patent No. 5,291,243); and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada in view of Heckman. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that Funada and Heckman, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an image data outputting apparatus for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, including at least any one of storing, selecting, retrieving, and generating means for storing, selecting, retrieving, or generating a piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus, respectively, wherein the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus corresponds to a resolution of the image forming apparatus, as recited in independent claims 1 and 3-7.

Funada merely discloses an image processing apparatus for adding information including the model number of the machine and/or the date of use of the machine as the pattern to be printed at certain intervals over a copy, wherein the addition of the pattern is

inhibited when a monochromatic or a two-color copy mode is designated, and the color of the pattern is not limited to yellow. Funada, however, fails to disclose a piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus, wherein the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus corresponds to a resolution of the image forming apparatus, as recited in claims 1 and 3-7.

Heckman discloses a system for printing security documents which have copy detection or tamper resistance including color patterns with oppositely varying density patterns of electronically generated pixel dot images with varying spaces in between. Heckman, however, also fails to disclose a piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus, wherein the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus corresponds to a resolution of the image forming apparatus, as recited in claims 1 and 3-7, and therefore, fails to make up for the deficiency of Funada.

Accordingly, Funada and Heckman, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an image forming characteristic which corresponds to a resolution of an image forming apparatus, as recited in claims 1 and 3-7.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 3-7 define patentable subject matter. Claim 8-15 depend from claims 1 and 3-7, respectively, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Bogdan A. Zinchenko
Registration No. 57,473

JAO:BAZ/hs

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 20, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
